

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PM CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCES NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES

1. SUMMARY: IN FIRST MEETING OCTOBER 19 OF CANDIDATES FOR

DEPUTY FROM NEW DEMOCRACY, CARAMANLIS ANNOUNCED THAT OF 288 CANDIDATES 194 ENTER POLITICS FOR FIRST TIME. PREMIER TOLD PROSPECTIVE DEPUTIES THAT NEW DEMOCRACY AIMS AT ESTABLISHING "MODERN, PROGRESSIVE AND SOLID DEMOCRACY." END SUMMARY.

2. NEW DEMOCRACY, ND, ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR 288 DEPUTIES ELECTED BY CONSTITUENCIES ON OCTOBER 19 IN FIRST PARTY ASSEMBLY. OF 288 CANDIDATES, 194 ARE MAKING DEBUT FOR FIRST TIME IN POLITICS AND 94 HAVE BEEN ELECTED PREVIOUSLY, ALMOST ALL FROM CARAMANLIS' FORMER PARTY NATIONAL RADICAL UNION, ERE. CANDIDATES REPRESENT BROAD RANGE OF PROFESSIONS--MSIX UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, 17 CIVIL ENGINEERS AND CHEMISTS, 29 PHYSICIANS, 11 RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, 14 ECONOMISTS, AS WELL AS LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS, EDUCATORS, INDUSTRIALISTS, FARMERS, ETC. NEW DEMOCRACY ANNOUNCED THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF

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CANDIDATES ARE BETWEEN 30-40 YEARS OF AGE, HIGHER PERCENTAGE

BETWEEN 40-50. THIRTEEN OF 288 CANDIDATES STILL UNANNOUNCED.

3. ADDRESSING ND ASSEMBLY, PM CARAMANLIS STRESSED THAT NEW CONDITIONS PREVAILING IN GREECE NECESSITATED CREATION OF NEW DEMOCRACY. "NEW IDEAS, NEW PROBLEMS AND NEW REQUIREMENTS HAVE APPEARED IN ALL SECTORS--POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC. OUR PARTY HAS BEEN CREATED TO ADJUST US TO THESE NEW IDEAS, SOLVE ALL NEW PROBLEMS, AND SERVE NEW REQUIREMENTS." PM ADDED THAT ND HAS AMBITION TO CREATE A MODERN, PROGRESSIVE AND WELL COORDINATED DEMOCRACY. "SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR ALL WILL BE SLOGAN TO BE USED BY ALL PARTIES. YET WE HAVE ADVANTAGE OVER THE OTHERS IN THAT WE WISH TO ESTABLISH SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHOUT SOCIAL DISTURBANCES, AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS WITHOUT ECONOMIC ACROBATICS." CARAMANLIS CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL FOR CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS WITH CALM AND DIGNITY. "PEOPLE OF GREECE DO NOT ASK ONLY FOR POLITICAL STABILITY. THEY ASK ALSO FOR POLITICAL TRANQUILITY AND CALM."

4. COMMENT: THE EXTENT TO WHICH FRESHMAN CANDIDATES CAN HELP CARAMANLIS AND THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY DEVELOP A BROADER NATIONAL APPEAL DEPENDS ON THEIR STANDING AND APPEAL AS INDIVIDUALS. GETTING STARTED IN GREEK POLITICS IS NEVER EASY AND THE GREEK VOTER OFTEN IS MORE INFLUENCED BY TRADITIONAL AND PATRONAGE-RELATED CONSIDERATIONS THAN BY PROGRAMS OR NEW FACES. WE ARE ANALYZING THE STRENGTH OF THE NEW DEMOCRACY SLATE IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.
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